REMARKS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 29-49 as amended, are pending in this application. Claims 1-28 have been canceled. Claims 37-49 are new. Claims 29, 34, 35, and 36 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 35 and 36. Claims 35 and 36 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 35 and 36.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 29-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,541 (Kamiyama et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,065 (Thornton et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Amended claim 29 recites,

> *An image communication system comprising:*
>
> *a plurality of image communications apparatuses, each of which possessing a telephone number belonging to a first category of telephone numbers, a telephone number belonging to a second category of telephone numbers and a corresponding network address;*
>
> *a first address supplying device storing telephone numbers belonging to the first category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one the telephone numbers belonging to the first category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses;*

a second address supplying device storing telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one of the telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses; and

a judging section included in each of the plurality image communications apparatuses, said judging section included in one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses; (1) determining whether a telephone number input to the one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses belongs to the first category of telephone numbers or to the second category of telephone numbers, and (2) if the input telephone number belongs to the first category of telephone numbers, directing the input telephone number to the first address supplying device and (3) if the input telephone number belongs to the second address supplying device, directing the input telephone number to the second address supplying device, said first address supplying device providing the corresponding network address of the input telephone number to the one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses if the input telephone number belongs to the first category of telephone numbers, and said second address supplying device providing the corresponding network address of the input telephone number to the one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses if the input telephone number belongs to the second category of telephone numbers.

Kamiyama et al. is directed to a plurality of relay apparatuses, for example 1-10 and 1-20 for transmitting facsimile data between facsimile apparatuses 1-31, 1-32 connected to a first relay apparatus and 1-41, 1-42, connected to a second relay apparatus. The facsimile data is

transmitted between the first and second relay apparatuses through an internet protocol (IP) network using transmission control protocol (TCP). Each of the relay apparatuses has an address translation table which includes the single telephone number and a corresponding network address of each facsimile connected to any one of the plurality of relay apparatuses. As shown in Fig. 1, and col. 4, lines 50-53 and col. 5, lines 20-23, each facsimile has only a single telephone number.

Thornton et al. is directed to an apparatus for routing telephone calls, including facsimile, originating in a private branch exchange (PBX) over either a public switched telephone network (PSTN) or a data network via a gateway. As shown in Fig. 2, each gateway has a microcontroller 240 which includes routing tables (internal routing table) for determining correspondence between a called telephone number and a destination IP address for every telephone number within a defined administrative domain (col. 14, lines 55-58). Each telephone has a PSTN telephone number (directory number) and an associated IP address, which ultimately are known to peered gateways such that peered gateways can convert the PSTN telephone number to an IP address and vice versa, and properly address the IP packets to their unique called destination.

As shown in Figs. 4A-4B, Thornton et al's. network includes both gateway elements and border elements. When telephone number is received by a gateway, the gateway searches for the called number in its internal routing table. If the called telephone number is not found in the internal routing table, the gateway queries a border element which then queries each peer border element for locating the called telephone number (col. 35, lines 56-63).

In support of an obvious rejection of claim 29, the Examiner, at page 3 of the Office action, states that Kamiyama et al. does not disclose two categories of telephone numbers but that it would be a clear extension to provide a separate table with the same functionality for a separate category of telephone numbers. The Examiner further states that Thornton et al. discloses both an internal routing table and an external routing table, and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of

Kamiyama et al. to provide two separate categories of telephone numbers as taught by Thornton et al.

Applicant first submits that the combination of Kamiyama et al. and Thornton et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest providing each image communications apparatus with two telephone numbers belonging to separate categories as recited in claim 29. As clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Kamiyama et al and Figs. 4A-4B of Thornton et al. each telephone has only a single telephone number. The mere fact that Thornton et al. provides for internal communication within an administrative domain and external communication does not suggest that the telephones disclosed by Thornton et al. have other than a single telephone number.

An embodiment of Applicant's invention is directed to a communications system in which each telephone has two distinct telephone numbers belonging to two separate categories for communication over separate circuit switched telephone networks or, with conversion, to a packet switched network. Both Kamiyama et al. and Thornton et al. direct their inventions to telephones having only a single telephone number for communication over a single circuit switched telephone system or over a packet switched network and not over two separate telephone networks. Consequently, the combination of Kamiyama et al. and Thornton et al. can not possibly teach or suggest providing each telephone with a first telephone number belonging to a first category of telephone numbers and a second telephone number belonging to a second category of telephone numbers, as recited in claim 29.

Claim 29 also recites a judging section in each one of the communication apparatus which judges whether the input telephone number belongs to a first category of telephone numbers or to a second category of telephone numbers and directs the input telephone number to either a first or a second address supplying device for providing a network address to the communications apparatus.

As stated by the Examiner, neither Kamiyama et al. nor Thornton et al. teach or suggest a judging section within each communication apparatus (facsimile) which determines whether an input telephone number belongs to a first or a second category of telephone numbers, as recited in claim 29. Further, as described at col. 5, line 44 to col. 7, line 33 of Kamiyama et

al., and col. 41, lines 52-60 of Thornton et al., the network address associated with a given telephone number and determined by the relay/gateway is not provided back to the image communication apparatus, as recited in claim 29.

The systems disclosed by Kamiyama et al. and Thornton et al. are completely different than the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, each communications apparatus is provided with the IP address of the destination telephone by the address supplying device. In contrast, the systems of Kamiyama et al. and Thornton et al. do not provide the IP address to the telephone/facsimile devices but perform the conversion from destination telephone number to IP address in the corresponding relay/gateway separate from the telephone/facsimile devices.

Since neither Kamiyama et al. nor Thornton et al. disclose: (1) a plurality of image communications apparatus each of which possesses two telephone numbers belonging to separate categories, (2) a judging section included in each communications apparatus for determining whether an input telephone number belongs to a first category of telephone numbers or a second category of telephone numbers, and (3) first and second address supplying devices which provide a network address to the communications apparatus, the combination of Kamiyama et al and Thornton et al. can not possibly teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 29. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 29.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that since claim 29 has been shown to be allowable, claims 30-34 dependent on claim 29 are allowable, at least by their dependency. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claims 29-34.

Claim 35 recites, *inter alia*, a method of transmitting images between first and second image communications devices where each device possesses telephone numbers belonging to first and second categories, and where a first device, upon receiving a telephone number of a second device determines judges whether the telephone number belongs to the first or the second category of telephone numbers. Accordingly, claim 35 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 29 is allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that since claim 35 has been shown to be allowable, claim 36 dependent on claim 35 is allowable, at least by its dependency. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 36.

New claims 37 - 49

New independent claim 37 recites, *inter alia*, in image communication system comprising a first image communications apparatus which includes a judging section for determining whether an input telephone number is an outside telephone number or an inside telephone number and an IP obtaining section for obtaining an IP address from a first or a second address supplying device based on the inputted telephone number.

New independent claim 38 recites, *inter alia*, a judging section for determining whether an input telephone number is an outside telephone number or an inside telephone number and an address receiving section for receiving a network address from a first or a second address supplying device.

Applicant submits that claims 37 and 38 are allowable for the same reasons that claim 29 is allowable. Further, it is respectfully submitted that since claim 38 has been shown to be allowable, claims 39-49 dependent on claim 38 are allowable, at least by their dependency. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 39-49.

CONCLUSION

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections have been addressed, the application is in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowability of claims 29- 49 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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